

**Amendments to the Claims:**

1. (Cancelled) .
2. (New) A method for calibrating the zero point of an apparatus that determines the amount of silica contained in a sample solution by using a colorimetric method having the successive steps of adding a molybdate solution, a developer solution, and a reducing agent to the sample, followed by light absorption measurement, said zero point calibration method comprising the following steps:
  - a) obtaining a sample to be analyzed;
  - b) introducing into said sample the developer solution;
  - c) obtaining a first absorption measurement of said sample;
  - d) introducing into said sample the molybdate solution;
  - e) introducing into said sample a reducing agent;
  - f) obtaining a second absorption of said sample; and
  - g) calculating the zero point for the apparatus.
3. (New) The method according to claim 2, wherein said developer solution comprises a solution containing an organic acid.
4. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein said organic acid is oxalic acid.

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5. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein said organic acid comprises citric acid or a mixture of citrates.
6. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said molybdate solution comprises a mixture of sodium molybdate, sodium hydrogen sulfate, and sulfuric acid.
7. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said reducing agent comprises sulfuric acid and ammonium ferrosulfate.
8. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said reducing agent comprises amino-naphthol sulfonic acid.